

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10290 041834Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AGR-20 L-03

SS-15 NSC-10 OIC-04 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /135 W

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R 041736Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6572

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10290

FOR AMSTRONG FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O.11652: NA/A

TAGS: ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PLENARY SESSION IN NEW DELHI

REF: STATE 173562

1. ECON COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SITUATION DESCRIBED REFTTEL WITH BHALLA, DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DIVISION MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. BHALLA'S INITIAL RESPONSE WAS TO CONFIRM GOI'S DECISION TO REFUSE VISAS TO DELEGATES FROM THREE COUNTRIES. ECON COUNSELOR POINTED OUT THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD REPRESENT UNILATERAL GOI DECISION ON ATTENDANCE AT A MULTILATERAL MEETING AND WOULD RAISE SERIOUS POLICY ISSUES INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF US PARTICIPATION.

2. AFTER CONSULTING FURTHER IN MEA BHALLA ATTEMPTED TO DRAW

DISTINCTION BETWEEN UN MEETINGS WHERE HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD ISSUE VISAS TO ALL AND OTHER MULTILATERAL MEETINGS WHERE HOST
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10290 041834Z

GOVERNMENT HAD "WIDE LATITUDE" ON INVITATIONS. HE CLAIMED

THERE NUMEROUS GOI, AS WELL AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS' PRECEDENTS, IN REFUSING TO ISSUE VISAS BUT WHEN CHALLENGED COULD NOT CITE ANY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

3. BHALLA'S NEXT APPROACH WAS TO CLAIM THAT THREE COUNTRIES DID NOT WISH TO ATTEND CONFERENCE. ECON COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT IF THIS WERE TRUE, NO PROBLEM AROSE. QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE GOI UNILATERALLY INTENDED TO DENY VISAS TO DELEGATES WHO WISHED ATTEND. IN REPLY TO BHALLA'S QUESTION WHETHER USG PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT ISRAEL ATTENDANCE, ECON COUNSELOR REPLIED USG CONCERN RELATED TO ALL THREE COUNTRIES.

4. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH BHALLA'S AGREEMENT TO REVIEW MATTER AND PRECEDENTS AND PROVIDE DEFINITIVE REPLY LATER IN WEEK.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON PRECEDENTS WHICH COULD BE CITED TO GOI. WHILE EMBASSY UNAWARE OF ANY EARLIER GOI-HOSTED CONFERENCE WHERE THIS ISSUE AROSE, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CHECK OF RECORDS.

6. HAS VISA ISSUE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THREE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED AND, IF SO, WERE THEY PLANNING TO SEND DELEGATES.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK GOI IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BACK DOWN FROM POSITION WHICH DID NOT RECEIVE SERIOUS GOI CONSIDERATION. IF, HOWEVER, GOI PERSISTS IN POSITION, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE USG (AND OTHERS) SHOULD CANCEL PARTICIPATION.
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